SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE

PROCEEDINGS

RE: SARAH HILLS, RN

ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT WITH MANDATED HPAP

License No. R044347,

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Sarah Hills, RN, ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number R044347;

WHEREAS, the Board received a complaint alleging Licensee engaged in conduct violating SDCL § 36-9-49 (4), (5), (10), and/or SDCL § 36-9-49.1 in that Licensee engaged in abnormal charting and medication scanning, had controlled substance usage above the mean compared to the rest of the nurses on the same unit, and had inappropriate medication waste;

WHEREAS, the Board summarily suspended Licensee's license on March 13, 2019, after initially considering the allegations against Licensee;

WHEREAS, the Board provided notice for and held an evidentiary hearing on April 16, 2019, at which Licensee appeared and testified, as well as a witness from Licensee's former employer;

WHEREAS, after hearing the evidence presented on the complaint against Licensee at the contested case hearing on April 16, 2019, the Board voted to maintain the suspension of Licensee's license pending an evaluation under SDCL § 36-9-49.1 and further order from the

Board, and the Board ordered that Licensee promptly complete the ordered evaluation, after which the Board would further consider the complaint against Licensee;

WHEREAS, Licensee completed a psychological evaluation with Dr. Chris Nordgren on May 7, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Board received and reviewed the completed psychological evaluation report and held further deliberations on June 13, 2019, regarding appropriate action to take on the complaint against Licensee;

WHEREAS, based on the information provided to the Board, the Board has determined that clear and convincing evidence exists showing Licensee negligently acted in a manner inconsistent with the health or safety of persons entered to Licensee's care in violation of SDCL § 36-9-49 (5); engaged in unsafe nursing practice in violation of SDCL § 36-9-49 (10); and has a mental condition that endangers the health or safety of a person who is or will be entrusted to the Licensee's care under SDCL § 36-9-49.1;

WHEREAS, the Board has a statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL § 36-9-1.1, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners;

WHEREAS, the Board, pursuant to SDCL § 36-9-57, also may, in its discretion, reinstate Licensee's suspended license upon a showing of good cause; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the evidence presented on the Complaint, the completed evaluation report, and Licensee's request for reinstatement of her license.

Being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, by the South Dakota Board of Nursing on the 13th day of June, 2019, by a vote of 7-0:

- The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.
- Good cause exists to reinstate Licensee's license to practice as a registered nurse
 in the State of South Dakota, subject to Licensee's mandated participation in the South Dakota
 Health Professional Assistance Program (HPAP).
- 3. The Board hereby mandates Licensee's participation in HPAP in accordance with the mental health recommendations of Dr. Nordgren's written evaluation, a copy of which Licensee shall provide to HPAP, along with a copy of this Order.
- 4. All terms and conditions, including but not limited to duration of Licensee's participation in HPAP, clearance to return to employment, and any restrictions or requirements shall be set by the HPAP, and Licensee shall fully comply with all of such terms and conditions.
- Licensee shall pay for all costs and expenses in carrying out the terms and conditions established by HPAP.
- 6. If the Licensee violates and terms of this reinstatement, the Licensee agrees that the Board may take such action against Licensee's license as the Board deems necessary, up to and including an immediate suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary action. If Licensee is unsuccessfully discharged by HPAP, this Order of Reinstatement shall be considered revoked and Licensee's licensee immediately and automatically suspended once again.

Dated this 17th day of June, 2019.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS

Executive Director